

EDUCATOR NEWSLETTER

KentuckyHistoricalSociety



Fall 2007

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Kentucky Historical Society's Teacher eNewsletter. This replaces and enhances the printed calendar of school-related events mailed out in previous years (for an online calendar of teacher and student events, go to www.history.ky.gov). Through this medium we plan to share information about programs, events, and teaching resources three times a year—in September, January, and May—to help you as you plan your classroom instruction and professional development.

KHS's education team consists of over 25 dedicated professionals ready to help teachers meet Core Content requirements through visits to our museums, library, and archives; the distribution of grants and curriculum materials; and outreach programs. Read on to find out what's going on this fall.

Kentucky Folklife Festival




The *Kentucky Folklife Festival*, scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, September 20-22, in downtown Frankfort, celebrates the diverse traditions of communities across the state through music and dance performances and crafts, cooking, recreation, and occupational demonstrations. Some of the communities featured in the 2007 Festival include Chinese, Latino, and East Indian immigrants; students and alumni of Kentucky State University; stringed-instrument makers; and farmers. Special hands-on areas

for children will explore holiday crafts from Kentucky immigrant communities; county-fair traditions; marble playing; and family folklore. While 2007 school group reservations are now full, you are welcome to check out the festival with family and friends and make plans to bring your students in 2009. 📖

Immigration Exhibition at Center for Kentucky History

Our New Kentucky Home: Immigrant Experiences, the current temporary exhibition at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, will be on view for most of the 2007-8 school year. The show chronicles the history of immigration in Kentucky by sharing the stories of individuals and families who have moved to the commonwealth from the late 18th century through the present. Room settings, artifacts, images, sound, and hands-on elements illustrate

the experiences of immigrants in Kentucky and explore common elements of the immigration experience. School groups interested in the exhibition can tour it on their own or participate in a program led by a KHS staff member. Two museum theatre plays developed for the exhibition are also available to school groups who schedule in advance. In *Birds of Passage: Vincent Scopa of "Tallie Holler,"* an Italian immigrant tells about everyday life in an eastern

Kentucky coal town during the 1930s. In *Necessity Knows No Law: Lives and Liberties of Bloody Monday*, an Irish shoemaker living in Louisville in the mid-19th century describes the causes and effects of the anti-immigrant riots that erupted on election day in 1855. To schedule a visit or a theatre presentation, contact Leslie McWhorter at 502-564-1792, ext. 4424 or KHTours@ky.gov. 

Kentucky Junior Historical Society

Now is the time to make plans for renewing your KJHS club or starting a new chapter! Since 1961, KJHS has provided opportunities for students in grades 4-12 to explore state and local history and heritage through regular club meetings, projects, and statewide events organized by the Kentucky Historical Society. This fall, KJHS will offer four Regional Rallies. These local history field trips include hands-on activities on Core Content-related topics such as early Kentucky settlement and the Civil War. Staff are available to conduct school visits upon request. [Click here to check out the Rally schedule and other helpful KJHS information](#) or contact the KJHS state office at 502-564-1792, ext. 4475 or KHSSchools@ky.gov. 




OCTOBER SPECIAL

Museum Theatre Presents *Haints in the Holler: Appalachian Ghost Tales and Superstitions*



Beware of folklore that goes BOO in the night! School groups visiting in October on Tuesdays and Wednesdays can enrich their museum visit with a short play about Kentucky folk tales, legends, and superstitions. The 15-minute production, free with admission, combines social studies and arts and humanities curriculum in a unique and entertaining format that students and teachers are sure to enjoy. The play is performed by

professional actors, and includes live music, spooky tales, and even a little magic. Make your reservation today by contacting KHTours@ky.gov.

Since 1998, Museum Theatre has staged more than 40 original productions, often inspired by the rich resources of the Kentucky Historical Society collection. For a full listing of other Museum Theatre offerings, [click here](#). 

Kentucky's National History Day



Like a science fair for history, Kentucky's National History Day program allows students in grades 6-12 to pick a topic, do research, and create projects. Working in

groups or individually, students express what they have learned through creative performances, documentaries, research papers, three-dimensional exhibits, or Web sites. Although projects must relate to the annual theme, students can choose local, state, U.S., or world history topics. The 2007-8 theme is "Conflict and Compromise in History." *Click here to learn about how National History Day works in Kentucky* or contact Kate Hesseldenz at kate.hesseldenz@ky.gov or 502-564-1792, ext. 4477.

Grants

Grants are available for field trips and projects in the classroom for K-12 public or private schools. Heritage Education grants support field trips to local history sites (maximum \$250 for field trips and \$500 for project grants). Lincoln Heritage Education grants (maximum \$350 for field trips and \$500 for project grants) are offered in cooperation with the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

Commission to support field trips by K-12 classes to any of the commission's designated Lincoln sites and for Lincoln-related projects in the classroom. There is no match required and the next deadlines for both grant programs are: September 30 and December 31, 2007. *To download a copy of grant guidelines and applications, click our Web site's listing of grants for teachers.*

Digital Collections Catalog Delivers Primary Sources with a Click!

It's September, and many history teachers' lessons are focused on the early settlement of Kentucky or the United States. Primary sources from KHS's Digital Collections Catalog are an excellent way to supplement and enliven traditional textbooks. A "quick search" on Frontier and Pioneer Life yields eighty-five items, ranging from the diary of William Calk, a contemporary of Daniel Boone who came through the Cumberland Gap in 1775, to period sketches of life on the frontier, to a 1784 map of Kentucky. These sources are rich in detail and reveal much about life at the time as well as provide a way to teach about historical perspective. Other

quick searches available are Civil War, Politics and Government, and Immigration, as well as search by county and search by decade features. With over six thousand sources digitized and more being added daily, there is something for every classroom! *Click here to check out the digital collections catalog.*



DID YOU KNOW?

Scholarships are available

to cover the \$2 admission fee for schools with over 50% of students on free or reduced lunch and covers admission to all Frankfort sites (both the main and temporary exhibitions at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, the Old State Capitol, and the Kentucky Military History Museum), including the Kentucky Folklife Festival. Contact KHS Tours@ky.gov for an application.

A new, full-color KHS 2007-8 School Catalog will be available in September with detailed information on all school-year offerings. To request a copy, contact KHSSchools@ky.gov or call 502-564-1792, ext. 4477.

The Kentucky Military History Museum will offer visitors free admission during the week of October 9 through 13.